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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KIRF](#) [ET](#)
SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA ON RELIGIOUS DEFAMATION

REF: A. STATE 109397
[1](#)B. STATE 122639

Classified By: Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, Alyson Grunder for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

[1](#)1. (C) On December 8, Political-Economic Counselor met with the Director of the Directorate-General for International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Grum, to deliver Reftel points on religious defamation. Ethiopia voted in favor of the resolution last year. Grum said he doubted Ethiopia would change its position this year.

[1](#)2. (C) Grum stated that Ethiopia's situation on religious tolerance here was "good but delicate." He gave the example of a press piece from the Saturday, December 5 weekly Amharic newspaper "Addis Admas" which contained a paid article written by Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini asking for support for Iran's nuclear policy in the name of religion. He characterized the article as "outrageous" and an example of how Ethiopia does not "want the boat rocked." (Note: The article was a paid advertisement of Khomeini's Hajj message and was sent to the newspaper by the Cultural Center of the Iranian Embassy in Addis. End Note.)
MUSHINGI